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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re

No.  
Adv. No.

\_\_\_\_\_ Debtor. /

vs. Plaintiff,

\_\_\_\_\_ Defendant. /

ORDER RE INITIAL DISCLOSURES  
AND DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

The purpose of this order is: (1) to notify the parties of their obligation under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, as incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7026, to make Initial Disclosures and meet for a Discovery Conference; and (2) to modify those Rule 26 requirements in certain respects. As such, this order has no effect in any proceeding exempted under Rule 26(a)(1)(E) and (f) from the Initial Disclosure and Discovery Conference

1 requirements.

2       **1. The Discovery Conference.** At least 21 calendar days  
3 before the status conference scheduled in the summons, the  
4 parties shall confer (in person or by telephone) at a "Discovery  
5 Conference." Plaintiff shall initiate contact regarding  
6 arrangement of the Discovery Conference. Defendant shall  
7 cooperate in fixing the time and place of the Discovery  
8 Conference. Except to the extent the parties stipulate  
9 otherwise, no party shall initiate or conduct any formal  
10 discovery prior to the Discovery Conference. The parties may  
11 conduct informal discovery.

12       **2. Settlement.** At the Discovery Conference, the parties  
13 shall consider the nature and basis of their claims and defenses  
14 and the possibility of an early settlement. The parties shall  
15 also discuss ADR options, as required by B.L.R. 9040-3.

16       **3. Initial Disclosures.** At the Discovery Conference, the  
17 parties shall arrange to make the "Initial Disclosures" required by Rule  
18 26(a), without necessity of a formal discovery request. The Disclosures  
19 shall be made at or within 14 calendar days after the Discovery  
20 Conference. All disclosures shall be in writing, signed by the party or  
21 his or her attorney, and served on all other parties.

22       **4. Discovery Plan.** Unless:

23       (a) the proceeding is exempt under Rule 26(f);

24       (b) the proceeding seeks to recover money or property, or  
25       except a debt from discharge pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a),  
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1 of no more than \$15,000, excluding interest, attorneys,  
2 fees, and costs; or  
3 (c) the parties stipulate to the contrary in a writing filed  
4 with the court;

5 the parties shall, at the Discovery Conference, also develop a  
6 written Discovery Plan signed by all parties or their counsel,  
7 that reflects the parties' views and proposals concerning:

- 8 (i) what changes, if any, should be made in the timing,  
9 form, or requirements of the Initial Disclosures;
- 10 (ii) the timing, subject matter, and limitations, if any, of  
11 discovery to be conducted after the initial disclosures; and
- 12 (iii) the subject of any orders that the court should enter  
13 under Fed.R.Bankr.P. 7016(b) and (c) and 7026(a)(1).

14 The Discovery Plan shall be filed within 14 calendar days after  
15 the Discovery Conference.

16 **5. Pretrial Disclosures.** Notwithstanding Rule 26(a)(3),  
17 pretrial disclosures shall be made in accordance with further  
18 order of the court.

19 **6. Service hereof.** The summons, complaint, and this order  
20 shall be served by the plaintiff within 10 days of the date of  
21 this order. A return or proof of service shall be filed within 5  
22 days after service.

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4 SO ORDERED.

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Dated:

FOR THE COURT

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court

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12 I certify that a copy of this Order was returned to the plaintiff  
13 at the time the original summons was issued.

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Dated:

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Deputy Clerk of Court

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